

REMARKS

The Notice of Allowance mailed March 10, 2008 has been reviewed, and the comments of the U.S. Patent Office have been considered. Claims 1-58 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1-2, 4-5, 7-11, and 14-15 have been amended, and claims 17-58 have been added. The originally-filed application supports the new claims by at least paragraphs [01], [06], [08] and [16]-[19], and by Figs. 1-3.

Applicants appreciate the allowance of independent claims 1 and 11, and the dependent claims thereof. New dependent claims 17-40 and new claims 41-58 are patentably distinct from the applied art for at least the same reasons of record for independent claims 1 and 11. With regard to new claims 41-58, the art of record fails to show, describe, teach, or suggest a vehicle with first and second sections, with the second section having an autonomous controller that initiates first, second, and third operational phases of the second section.

Accordingly, the allowance of claims 1-58 is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this Application and the prompt allowance of at least the pending claims.

Should the Examiner feel that there are any issues outstanding after consideration of this response, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned to expedite prosecution of the application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized by this paper to charge any fees during the entire pendency of this application including fees due under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 which may be required, including any required extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account 50-3840. **This paragraph is intended to be a CONSTRUCTIVE PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a)(3).**

Respectfully submitted,



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